

Certain embodiments of the present invention are illustrated in the appended Figures:

Figure 1 illustrates one example of a method of collecting information related to RFID tags associated with items of interest;

Figure 2 illustrates one example of a method of identifying items associated with RFID tags;

Figure 3 illustrates one example of a method of obtaining information related to items associated with RFID tags;

Figure 4 illustrates one example of a method of obtaining information related to items of interest associated with RFID tags;

Figure 5 illustrates one example of a method of reconciling an inventory list of items associated with RFID tags; and

Figure 6 illustrates one example of a method of collecting data related to items associated with RFID tags.

On page 4, please add the following paragraph, starting on line 9:

One example of a method 10 of collecting information related to RFID tags associated with items of interest is illustrated in Figure 1 in a flow chart diagram. Method 10 includes step 12 of selecting a category of items using a user interface associated with an RFID reader. Method 10 also includes step 14 of using the RFID reader to interrogate at least one RFID tag associated with an item of interest. Method 10 also includes step 16 of associating information related to the at least one item with the selected category.

On page 5, please add the following paragraph starting on line 21:

One example of a method 20 of identifying items associated with RFID tags is illustrated in Figure 2 in a flow chart diagram. Method 20 includes step 22 of providing a database including entries associated with certain items. Method 20 also includes step 24 of interrogating RFID tags associated with items. Method 20 also includes step 26 of providing an indication to a user when an RFID tag associated with an item that is not on the database is interrogated.

On page 7, please add the following paragraph starting on line 3:

RS One example of a method 30 of obtaining information related to items associated with RFID tags is illustrated in Figure 3 in a flow chart diagram. Method 30 includes step 32 of interrogating the RFID tags in an order. Method 30 also includes step 34 of organizing the information in an order other than the order in which the tags were interrogated.

On page 8, please add the following paragraph starting on line 8:

RS One example of a method 40 of obtaining information related to items of interest associated with RFID tags is illustrated in Figure 4 in a flow chart diagram. Method 40 includes step 42 of interrogating RFID tags, each associated with an item, to determine information related to the items for a first purpose of searching for certain items on a predetermined search list. Method 40 also includes step 44 of using the information for a second purpose of determining the presence or absence of the items in the storage area.

On page 9, please add the following paragraph starting on line 6:

RS One example of a method 50 of reconciling an inventory list of items associated with RFID tags is illustrated in Figure 5 in a flow chart diagram. Method 50 includes step 52 of using an RFID reader to interrogate at least one RFID tag associated with an item. Method 50 also includes step 54 of determining whether the item is represented on the inventory list as being present, and if not then proceeding to step 56. Step 56 includes indicating to a user in real time that the inventory list indicates that the item is absent. Method 50 also includes step 58 of enabling the user in real time to confirm that the item is present using a user interface associated with the RFID reader.

On page 9, please add the following paragraph starting on line 28:

M
One example of a method 60 of collecting data related to items associated with RFID tags is illustrated in Figure 6 in a flow chart diagram. Method 60 includes step 62 of using an RFID reader to interrogate RFID tags, each associated with an item, wherein the items are not arranged or interrogated in an order associated with their desired locations in a storage area. Method 60 also includes step 64 of organizing information obtained from the RFID tags in an order associated with the desired locations of the items in a storage area. Method 60 also includes step 66 of providing the organized information from step 64 to a user.

Since all the amendments are inserting new paragraphs or sections, a version marked up to show changes made to the specification relative to the previous version of the specification is not attached.

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, the Examiner requested a drawing, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.81. Enclosed with this Amendment is Applicants' Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings, with which Applicants propose to enter new Figures 1-6. The specification has been amended to describe Figures 1-6. The description of Figure 1 is based on independent claim 1. The description of Figure 2 is based on independent claim 25. The description of Figure 3 is based on independent claim 32. The description of Figure 4 is based on independent claim 40. The description of Figure 5 is based on independent claim 42. The description of Figure 6 is based on independent claim 47. No new matter has been added. Approval of the amendments to the specification and the request to amend the drawings is respectfully solicited. If the proposed drawing is approved, formal drawings will be submitted prior to the payment of the issue fee.